

Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published By

THE OTTAWA JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

April 18, 1940

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NISSAN 10, 5700

Passover, 5700-1940, Community at Large

Sale of Chometz, Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman, all week until Monday, April 22, 10 a.m.
Shabbos Hagadol Drashah (Yiddish) Saturday, April 20, 5.30 p.m., Agudath Achim Synagogue, Rideau Street.

B'dikath Chometz (Search for Chometz), Sunday evening, April 21.
Siyum B'chorim (For First-Born Males), Monday, April 22, 7.00 a.m. Rabbi Fasman will conclude the tractate Arekin at Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, King Edward Avenue.

Latest chometz meal, Monday, April 22, 9.00 a.m.
Biur Chometz (Removal of Chometz), Monday, April 22, 10.00 a.m.
Yom Tov Candles, Monday, April 22, 6.30 p.m.
Minchah and Maariv (all synagogues), Monday, April 22, 6.45 and 7.00 p.m. respectively.

Minchah and Maariv (all synagogues), Tuesday, April 23, 6.45 and 7.15 p.m. respectively. Begin counting of Omer.

Sabbath Candles, Friday, April 26, 6.45 p.m.
Yom Tov Candles, Sunday, April 28, 6.45 p.m.
Minchah and Maariv (all synagogues), Sunday, April 28 and Monday, April 29 6.45 and 7.15 p.m. respectively.

Yizkor (all synagogues), Tuesday, April 30, 10.15 a.m.

CONGREGATION ADATH JESHURUN, KING EDWARD AVE. PASSOVER SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, APRIL 23rd — Services at 8.30 a.m.
Reading from the Torah: Exodus 12:21-51, Numbers 28:16-25.
Reading from the Prophets: Joshua 5:2—6:1.
Sermon: "Educating for Freedom", Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24th — Services at 8.30 a.m.
Reading from the Torah: Leviticus 22:26-23:44, Numbers 23:16-25.
Reading from the Prophets: II Kings 23:1-9, 21-25.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27th (Chal Ha-moed). Services at 9 a.m.
Reading from the Torah: Exodus 33:12-34:26, Numbers 28:19-25.
Reading from the Prophets: Ezekiel 37:1-14.
Sermon: "Bread of Affliction", Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman.

MONDAY, APRIL 29th — Services at 8.30 a.m.
Reading from the Torah: Exodus 13:17-15:26, Numbers 28:19-25.
Reading from the Prophets: II Samuel, 22:1-51.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30th — Services at 8.30 a.m.
Reading from the Torah: Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17, Numbers 28:19-25.
Reading from the Prophets: Isaiah 10:32-12:6.
Shachrith Services; REV. J. MIRSKY.

Musaf Services: Cantor J. RABIN with Choir.

The officers of Adath Jeshurun desire to extend best wishes to all the members, their families and their friends for a joyous Passover.

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ACHIM Rideau Street

Services all four days of the Passover holiday will begin at 8.30 a.m. Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman will occupy the pulpit Wednesday, April 24, and will deliver a sermon on the topic, "The Plus-Element of Life."

Our congregation is pleased to announce that our newly elected cantor, Rev. A. Weiss, will officiate at all the services.

CONGREGATION MACHZIKEI HADATH, Murray Street

Services all four days of the Passover holiday will begin at 8.30 a.m. Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman will occupy the pulpit. Sh'viyi shel Pesach, Monday, April 23, and will preach on the topic, "The Royalty of Self-Respect".

Our beloved cantor, Rev. A. Baker, will officiate at the services.

(Continued on page 5)

Ottawa Welcomes New Spiritual Leader

Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman Assumes Duties Here



From the southwest to the northeast travelled Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman, elected by the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa to be the spiritual leader of the Dominion capital. Leaving his pulpit in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he served faithfully for ten years, Rabbi Fasman arrived here March 18th, and was received by a large delegation of communal leaders. He was formally introduced to his new congregants at a service sponsored by the Vaad Ha'Ir on Friday evening, March 22nd, at Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, when he spoke on the topic, "A New Rabbi Looks at His Community."

Born in Chicago thirty-two years ago, and educated at the Hebrew Theological College and the world-renowned University of Chicago, Rabbi Fasman brings to Ottawa a combination of scholarship and progressive ideology that should win for him the loyalty of old and young, European and American. At his first meeting with the Vaad Ha'Ir he indicated that he would attempt to work gradually, by studying carefully one problem at a time, toward a complete program for Jewish life, with particular emphasis upon the requirements of the younger people.

The Rabbi is residing temporarily with the family of Cantor J. Rabin at 223 Charlotte.

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

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The Ottawa Jewish Community Council

Oscar Z. Fasman, Rabbi

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RESPONSIBILITY OR REGRET?

It is a normal Jewish habit to mourn over the good old days when conditions were different. Sometimes reference is made to the respect children had for their parents then, sometimes to the widespread observance of the commandments and traditions, again to the zeal people displayed in giving their children an intensive religious education, or to the strength of group loyalty in the ghetto. The danger in this type of reminiscence comes from the tendency to despair of accomplishing anything substantial in our times when we cannot find in our midst these ancient virtues. Yet the intelligent way to analyze contrast would ask us to develop a program of action, rather than a policy of lamentation, on the basis of recognizing the changed circumstances.

A community must follow the philosophy of an individual in this respect: just as the latter, if he would maintain his mental equilibrium and the health of his personality, must avoid dwelling exclusively upon the glories of his past and adjust himself to the realities of his present, so must the former cease to complain endlessly about that which cannot be recalled and set itself to the constructive task of working with the materials at hand. Granting that the modern Jewish mother does not show the same interest in a Hebrew education for her child that her grandmother had, is the Hebrew School permitted to use that fact as an excuse for all of its ills, or should it earnestly endeavor to overcome, as far as is humanly possible, this new tremendous obstacle in its path? Admitting that the 1940 Canadian home has been influenced by the Torah much less than the 1900 Lithuanian home, should a rabbi sit back helplessly with the plea that we have lost the spirit of European Jewry, or should he labor to introduce a maximum of the traditions into the

homes under his guidance? Because children today apparently refuse to follow unquestioningly the counsel of their fathers, are the elders to consider themselves entirely released from all responsibility for their growth and philosophy?

In other words duty demands that we direct our efforts into the creative channels still open to us, and that we build for the future with the timber supplied by the present, without devoting all our attention to the sad observation that there are many weak beams and numerous cracked boards. We may find, indeed, that we enjoy advantages missing in those days, and that we can summon to our aid an imposing list of achievements and qualities that only our generation has produced. If we keep in mind the fact that faith is an elementary human need, that Judaism is replete with values towards which every Jew yearns, and that even the most materialistic-minded are driven to seek, in more critical and sober hours, the inspiration of the Torah, we have ample reason to feel that the proper methods will bring results.

Some of the necessary methods are already become crystallized. Thus, for example, the European way of telling a young person to perform a certain mitzvah because "it's the thing to do" and he "must" do it yields to the more appealing approach of giving him a rational insight into the meaning of the ceremony. Again, the absence of social grace in conjunction with the practice of a Jewish custom, that shocked nobody in a world where good manners, as we understand them, were in the primitive stage, will discourage the college graduates of today, so that it becomes incumbent upon the champions of Judaism in this country to achieve harmony between the laws of Israel and the laws of contemporary society. Caning a recalcitrant pupil in the Talmud Torah, once considered indispensable for his moral welfare, has been sent into discard, to be replaced by the newer forms of discipline.

To sum up, the advancement of Judaism today requires that we establish our program, not upon a platform of regrets for what has slipped into the past, nor yet upon the foundations of what we wish Jewish life had remained, but upon the basis of what it actually is; and our sacred responsibility is to take the people we now have, and the conditions in which they now live, in order to create with these a sturdy house of Israel.

OSCAR Z. FASMAN

HANOAR STUDY AND BREAKFAST GROUP

ITS PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS

Since the beginning of the current session, last October 15th, the members of Hanoar Study and Breakfast Group have conducted twenty-six weekly assemblies in the Agudath Achim Synagogue. The boys of Hanoar convene each week for the purpose of offering prayer together—for partaking of the breakfast meal together, and to enjoy a timely cultural program of Jewish interest and significance. As a result, it is hoped that the inspiring example which we set each Sunday morning is followed in the home throughout the entire week.

What is the Pledge of Hanoar? "I will endeavour to the best of my ability to remain steadfast to the traditional teachings of the Jewish people; to further my Jewish education; to exercise loyalty to my King and Country; to become instilled with a love and devotion for my Homeland, Palestine; and to perform those duties incumbent upon me as a young Jew."

Our regular assemblies have been featured with interesting and illuminating educational programs. A number of our meetings centred about a discussion on Great Personalities in Jewish History. As our various Jewish Festivals occur, a discourse and questionnaire take place regarding their meaning, their historical background and observance. From time to time, we were fortunate to hear excellent and impressive messages from a number of Guest Speakers on a variety of Jewish subjects. Another attractive item of our programs is the singing of Hebrew and Palestinian melodies, and also a regular period for Jewish Current Events, by which medium our members are kept posted with respect to the conditions and happenings of our people in Canada, the United States, Europe and Palestine.

Every week or two, one of our boys is designated to discuss some aspect of Jewish Life in a prepared speech, and it is gratifying to find that topics concerning Zionism and Palestine are favoured highly. Our Youth recognizes readily its responsibility and duty to Eretz Israel, as the only land which can help solve the perplexing problems of Jewry across the sea. Members of Hanoar understand the meaning of Tzedakah and Gemiluth Chasadim. But in addition to knowing the theoretical phase of charity, our Group practises acts of Gemiluth Chasadim. A brilliant characteristic which becomes a definite part of a young man who is identified with Hanoar is Friendship.

The foremost assembly of this Organization during the season was the Father and Son Breakfast Assembly, which took place on February 18th last, and which was attended largely by members of the Executive Committee of the Vaad Ha'Ir. At this gathering, a loving tribute was delivered to the memory of Baron Tweedsmuir, late Governor General of Canada—an illustrious son of the British Empire, a splendid Christian man, and a noble friend of us Jews.

May the great lessons we have learned together serve to strengthen and to inspire our daily lives for good, for peace and for happiness.

Herman S. Roodman,
Director

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OTTAWA B'NAI B'RITH CARRIES ON!

And so concludes another progressive year in the annuals of B'nai B'rith in the Capital. Simultaneously, however, a new term commences for the Ottawa Lodge—a period which calls for every Jew to contribute to the privileged task of building up an enhanced Jewish life.

During all its years, B'nai B'rith has fought for the integrity of Jewish life and for the honour of the Jewish name. It has been a leading character of assistance for the persecuted, and a brave champion in upholding the dignity of the Jew when attacked. It has never forgotten the duty of benevolence and loving-kindness. Amazing it is for us to realize the numerous branches of this Order's service—into how many institutions the dollars of members come to dry the tears and heal the wounds of widows, orphans, immigrants, the aged and infirm—these, all cared for and protected by B'nai B'rith.

At this very moment, when so many of our people in other lands are suffering in cruelty and pain, B'nai B'rith is demonstrating its practical service potentialities when it is engaged in the work of alleviating this tragic plight, through definite measures.

Perhaps the most sterling project sponsored by the Men's Lodge and Women's Auxiliary of Ottawa annually is Camp B'nai B'rith. For six weeks, each Summer, about 175 of our Jewish boys and girls, the majority of whom are underprivileged, enjoy a two-week vacation at the Camp, amid an invigorating atmosphere and a healthful setting.

An extensive program of significant activities was conducted in the local Lodge during the past twelve months. Numerous donations have been made to a variety of worthy causes, Jewish and non-Jewish—a Scholarship has been awarded at Queen's University (an

annual award) — assistance has been rendered in the field of Red Cross work.

Is it not a privilege to assume membership and to serve in this Organization of Harmony, Benevolence and Brotherly Love? B'nai B'rith unites our co-religionists the world over. Thus, with a note of hopefulness, Ben B'riths of the Ottawa Lodge express the fervent prayer that the Festival of Passover may find more and more of our stricken people dwelling in freedom and with life anew in our beloved Homeland of Palestine.

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B'NAI B'RITH INSTALLATION AFFAIR ON WEDNESDAY

One of the leading events on the B'nai B'rith calendar in Ottawa is its annual Installation of Officers and Dinner Function, which this year took place in the Talmud Torah Hall, on Wednesday, April 17th. For that occasion, Ottawa had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Harry B. Epstein of New York City, prominent attorney, and President of District Grand Lodge No. 1 in B'nai B'rith, who was the Guest of Honour and Installing Officer. Mr. Benjamin Goldfield, K.C. was installed as President of the Men's Lodge, and Mrs. M. J. Isaacs as President of the Women's Auxiliary. An elaborate and delicious, old-fashioned Kosher dinner was served, and a brilliant evening was enjoyed by those who attended.

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KOSHER FOOD SUGGESTIONS

Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman holds the theory that the more kosher food available, the better for Kashruth and for the happiness of the family. He therefore proposes to investigate as many products as possible with a view to discovering whether they are permissible according to the dietary laws.

Already he has corresponded with the makers of Crisco and assures us the shortening is purely vegetable, kosher and parve.

Important Announcement

On Sunday, April 28, 10.30 in the auditorium of our Talmud Torah a public examination of the various groups attending the Talmud Torah will be held.

Our newly elected spiritual leader in the community, Rabbi Oscar Fasman, and the Rev. J. Rabin assisted by the teaching staff will conduct the examination.

All are cordially invited.

A TIMELY MESSAGE TO THE JEWRY OF OTTAWA

Faced as we are with the gigantic problem of relief and rehabilitation of a great portion of our distressed brethren across the seas, and faced also with the acute problem of the upbuilding of Palestine, and as well numerous other problems which constantly demand our attempts at solution, we find ourselves at this time heavily burdened and taxed by our obligations and duties, particularly those of our community who are conscious of their affiliations with all worthwhile endeavours, national and local.

All those who are possessed of a genuine interest in the perpetuation of those ideals which we hold so dear will be naturally interested to hear of the state of affairs of the one local institution which is truly communal and which exerts a positive influence upon the minds of those who are about to embrace our great heritage. I have reference, of course to the Talmud Torah which is guided by a board of directors appointed by the community and whose leadership I have the privilege of enjoying. I deem it, therefore, imperative from time to time to enlighten the community at large on the state of affairs in our institution—an institution which must command genuine attention and must be of vital importance to all those who share in the common belief that, notwithstanding the serious general problems we are forced to cope with, we must not at any time overlook and side-track the welfare of our local community, particularly when the Jewish education of our children is at stake.

Our board, after a great deal of painstaking effort, is proud to boast of a Talmud Torah which is truly a model institution from the point of view of its progressive system of instruction, its rich and well-planned curriculum, its most competent staff of instructors and its continual supervision by a willing and able Board of Directors. Yet I do not hesitate to admit the slight decline of late in the enrollment of pupils from our last year's high—a condition which does not lend pride to our institution nor encouragement to our Board. To a certain measure, it indicates a general apathy and indifference of a number of our parents and guardians to the importance of a thorough Hebrew education for their children which our Talmud Torah, and our Talmud Torah only can best provide.

In light of the above, a campaign for new pupils is being launched by our Board with the active participation of the entire teaching personnel. Our campaign begins April 15 and terminates May 1st, when a new beginner's class will be formed and commence at once

to function. Although youngsters between the ages of 5 and 7 are the most desirable recruits for our institution, older children of Talmud Torah age can easily be accommodated in the 12 various groups or shifts which make up our central Talmud Torah and the James St. Synagogue branch.

A vivid and striking example of what our Talmud Torah has accomplished will best be demonstrated at our open examination which will take place Sunday morning, April 28, 10.30 a.m. in the auditorium of our Talmud Torah, when each group of pupils attending the Talmud Torah will be publicly examined by the newly elected spiritual leader of our community, Rabbi Oscar Fasman, by our chairman of education, Reverend J. Rabin and, as well, by our teachers.

Parents and guardians of children attending the Talmud Torah, as well as all those who believe in the vital importance of a thorough Hebrew education as a means of our survival as a people, are cordially invited to attend and to bring their friends.

For those who will be present an hour of spiritual pleasure awaits them—for us there will arise an added number of goodwill emissaries for this cause in our community, and in these disturbing times they are highly desirable and essential.

The Talmud Torah is yours, utilize its facilities to the fullest extent. Enroll your children at once.

M. LOEB,

Chairman Ottawa Talmud Torah Board

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REORGANIZED ZIONIST SOCIETY

Zionistic activities in Ottawa, in the past apparently have been the sole interest of the ladies. It is common knowledge throughout Canada that the Hadassah organizations in Ottawa rank amongst the highest in enthusiasm and for work performed. Unfortunately, the male population has not the same record and it was a realization of their shortcomings that caused the meeting of a group of Zionistically minded gentlemen during the course of the winter.

The meeting showed that they were of the opinion that from a fund-raising point of view the men were subject to no criticism, but from the view of being properly posted and acquainted with the object for which the funds were being raised, i.e. Palestine, they were all tarred with the brush of ignorance. And so they decided to re-organize the Ottawa Zionist Society, with its one main purpose—to foster an educational programme on Zionism and create the intelligent, rather than the ignorant, Zionist.

Mr. Lawrence Freiman was elected President pro tem, and at the First General Meeting Mr. Simon J. Ritt attained the presidency. Mr. A. J. Freiman was elected Honorary President, Mr. Samuel Berger, K.C., Honorary Vice-President, Messrs. Lawrence Freiman and Samuel Lepofsky, Vice-Presidents, Mr. M. K. Levinson, Treasurer, Mr. John Mirsky, Secretary. An Executive Committee was formed of the following:—Messrs. Alex Betcherman, L. Fine, H. Greenblatt, L. S. Greenberg, Jacie Horwitz, H. Soloway.

Our First General Meeting was held on the 14th of March, 1940, with an excellent address by Rabbi Jesse Schwartz of Montreal, and a report on the World Zionist Congress by Samuel Berger, K.C. Our next General Meeting was held on April 16th, at which was presented an "Information Please" programme, revolving around points of interest on Palestine. Rabbi Fasman spoke on the topic "What Does Zionism Mean to our Youth?"

The Reorganized Ottawa Zionist Society may be considered a new institution, with a definite place and a definite programme. Its purpose is not the solicitation of funds and ordinarily no solicitations will be made at our meetings. The public is generally invited to our meetings and to show your enthusiasm you may become a member for a nominal fee of \$2.00.

It is trite to say the success of our organization depends on public support. As a result of two executive meetings, we have an excellent programme planned, including the importation of speakers of note—a programme which will merit your support.

We ask you, therefore, to get behind the Ottawa Zionist Society and have it attain the success it undoubtedly deserves.

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MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi and Mrs. Oscar Z. Fasman on the addition to their family of Reuven Mitchell, who was born in Chicago March 50. May they find in him a source of endless joy and pride.

To Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Slone, whose son Irving Ernest became Bar Mitzvah at the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue March 30. May they derive lifelong satisfaction from his development into a respected member in Israel.

To Mr. and Mrs. I. Zelnick on the occasion of the marriage of their daughter Minnie to Mr. Harry Nadelle of Fort Coulonge, that occurred March 31st at the B'nai Jacob Synagogue. May the young couple build their home truly among their people.

Young People's League of the United Synagogues of Ottawa

Under the excellent leadership of Hyman Solloway the "Y.P.L." has had a most successful season. The "indicator" is attendance at meetings and the attendance has been consistently excellent. Our first meeting was addressed by Victor Podowski, Polish Consul-General. His material and manner charmed the audience and his reply to questions posed added a lively spirit to the meeting. Our debate with Montreal Y.M.H.A. brought out a record attendance as did the Mock Parliament. Rabbi Eisendrath's lecture was generally considered the finest meeting of the year with an attendance of close to 300. His comments to the effect that the meeting was the most efficiently run meeting he has ever attended stands as a compliment to the whole organization. Our "information please" program was very well received and probably will be repeated upon next season.

The athletic side of the Y.P.L. was confined to bowling. Next season more careful arrangements will be made. The Public Speaking Committee held four most interesting meetings.

All in all, your Y.P.L. executive feel snugly satisfied. We feel that the organization has shown its worth, fills an important place in community life and deserves your support next season. Please be willing in giving it.

WEDDING NOTES

Rabbi Fasman requests that prospective brides and grooms call him at least two weeks prior to the wedding date to arrange for a premarital conference that will help to beautify the ceremony.

After Sunday, April 21, weddings cannot be held, except on the following days: May 7 (after sunset), 8 and 9; May 25 (after sunset) and 26; June 6 (after sunset) and thereafter. Another period when weddings may not be held extends from July 22nd to August 13th.

NOTICE, YOUNG ATHLETES!

The Talmud Torah can use several boys, 16-21 years of age, to supervise a diversified program of athletic activities for its pupils. If you have time after school, please get in touch with Rabbi Fasman.

CONGREGATION AGUDATH ISRAEL

Dedicates New Synagogue

On Sunday, April 14, in an impressive ceremony at which Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman officiated, Congregation Agudath Israel dedicated its new synagogue, Ottawa's fifth house of Jewish prayer, on Fairmont Avenue. Approximately five hundred people, including dignitaries of all the congregations and communal leaders of distinction, participated in the services. Gratitude was expressed by the various speakers, among whom were Mrs. B. Alexander of Montreal, His Worship Mayor Stanley Lewis, and the purchaser of the Golden Key, Mr. Samuel Berger, K.C., for the opportunity to live in a country where synagogues are not destroyed, but built; and faith was emphasized as to the final victory of democracy.

An appeal by Mr. A. Held brought encouragement to the officers of the congregation and of its Ladies Auxiliary in the form of generous contributions. Mr. Harry Leikin, President, and Mr. A. Kelman, Vice-president, expressed the thanks of the membership to all its friends.

The synagogue building is spacious and inspiring, so that all in attendance rejoiced to welcome it into the traditional succession of Hebrew sanctuaries

Haggadah Note

Why do we pour out a little wine from the cup when we read of the plagues that afflicted Pharaoh and Egypt? Even when Israel rejoices over its redemption from bondage, its cup of joy is not completely full because the exodus involved the suffering of others. The Latter deserved to be punished, yet the Midrash observes: When the Egyptians were drowning in the Red Sea, the angels assembled around the divine throne and wished to sing the praises of Him Who wrought vengeance upon the wicked. But He asked them to refrain, saying, "My creatures are being destroyed, and would you sing psalms of happiness?"

This tradition also explains why on the last days of Passover we say only Half-Hallel, not the entire prayer of thanksgiving, since on the seventh day the Egyptian hosts were destroyed in the Red Sea. It was the Mistletoe King who uttered his request that sins, rather than sinners, be wiped out from the earth.

(Continued from page 1)

A NEW STUDY GROUP

A course of study especially designated for young women, entitled "Customs and Ceremonies of Judaism", to be held every Wednesday between 2:00-3:00 o'clock, is being planned now by Rabbi Fasman for the season of 1940-41. The Rabbi will appreciate receiving in writing any suggestions as to which among these can be most valuable for discussion. The suggestions, it is hoped, will come not from those who wish to prescribe for others but who desire to attend in order to be personally enlightened.

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SELLING OF CHOMETZ

Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman will be in charge of the traditional practice known as mechirah chometz, by which the chometz possessions of each family pass for the duration of the Pesach holiday into other hands to be permissible again at its conclusion. Every Jew is urged to keep this essential custom by seeing the rabbi at the Ottawa Talmud Torah between 7:30 and 9:30 o'clock at night.

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CONGREGATION AGUDATH ISRAEL Fairmont Street

Services all four days of the Passover holiday will begin at 9:00 a.m., with Mr. M. Ellenberg and Mr. H. Mirsky acting as cantors.

Our congregation extends its warmest welcome to the Jewish people in our vicinity to participate in worship with us in our recently dedicated sanctuary.

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CONGREGATION B'NAI JACOB James Street

Services all four days of the Passover holiday will begin at 9:00 a.m. Before the memorial Services (Yizkor) on Tuesday, April 30th, Rabbi Oscar Z. Fasman will preach on the topic, "The Story of Deathlessness".

Rev. S. Schreiber, the revered dignitary of our congregation, will officiate as cantor at all the principal services.

Newley Elected Cantor

Congregation Agudath Achim, Rideau St., brings its new Cantor, Rev. Aaron Weiss, from Breslau, Germany, where he officiated in one synagogue for twenty-five years. His singing talents are supplemented by his reputation as a Talmid Chacham, and Ottawa Jewry feels enriched by his presence here.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As Chairman of the Vaad Ha'ir, I am pleased to have this opportunity to welcome Rabbi Fasman in our midst, and on behalf of this Community to extend to him our best wishes. His task is not an easy one, for to shepherd five Congregations is quite an undertaking for a young man. It, therefore, behooves everyone of us to assist him and lighten his burden as much as possible.

We are now on the eve of Passover. Unfortunately, this year we will go to the Seder with heavy hearts, for we are engulfed in a sea of suffering humanity. Today, Civilization is fighting for that freedom for which Passover stands. One country after another is being over-run by the most atrocious beasts who devour and destroy all that it took centuries to build and establish. For our people, 1939 was perhaps the worst and most staggering year in our long and dark Galuth. I doubt if the voice of a Jeremiah could describe the tragedy of our people. Hundreds of thousands of innocent souls have been put to fire and sword. Millions are trapped in the inferno, under the heel of Naziism. Others find themselves on the highways and byways of the world with all doors closed to them. The disaster is so great that the mind cannot grasp its full significance.

But Passover stands for more than freedom. It stands also for hope and faith. With that in mind we can celebrate YomTov with humility and stout hearts. The Allies are today at war for those principles that Passover denotes. We know that they will emerge victorious for, surely in the long run, right, and not might, will be the dominating factor, love, and not hate, the outstanding quality of mankind, and truth, and not falsehood, the corner-stone of our civilization.

While we are surrounded by gloom we must not despair, for even for the wanderers there is a light on the dark horizon; and that is Palestine, which appears as an oasis in a desert. We all realize that the road to it is hard, and that it does not offer great material rewards, yet, it does hold out great spiritual gifts and the return of the true spirit of Judaism. The difficult task of building is a labour of love and the reward is in the knowledge that it is noble work well done. To us who are engaged in securing the ancient heritage the "Yetziath Mitzraim" "deliverance from Egypt) serves as an inspiration to carry on with greater determination the resettlement of the Promised Land.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Would you like to help in keeping our community mailing list as much up-to-date as possible? Although we know that several of the addresses to which this Bulletin is being sent should be changed, lack of information has prevented a complete revision of the list so far. If you have moved from the address to which this copy is being sent, or if you contemplate moving on May 1st, will you please telephone HARRY GOLDMAN, at 3-5113, and mention this fact. We would appreciate it immensely.

If you know of any other people whom we may have missed, or of any newcomers to this city, who would be interested in receiving copies of our Bulletin, we would be happy to add their names to our mailing list, if you would so advise us.

UNITED PALESTINE APPEAL

On May 12th, the United Palestine Appeal will commence its annual drive, with Itamar Ben-Avi as the distinguished guest and orator at the opening banquet.

In view of the European catastrophe and the tremendous burden which has fallen because of it upon our pioneers in the Holy Land, Jews will be expected to do more than ever this year. The issue involved is one of keeping alive the morale of the courageous Yishub.

Those who are in Palestine expect those who have the opportunity for a life of much less hardship to understand their situation and to respond with broader sympathy than in the past. Those who wander in exile surely have the right to look to their more fortunate brethren for a chance to find peace in the land of our ancestors.

It is not necessary, of course, to remind the members of the Ottawa Jewish Community of the importance of the Palestinian reconstruction work in general, but it is required to impress upon all that past gifts made in normal times ought not to be a criterion for contributions in this period of unprecedented crisis.

Ottawa Jewry must exceed its quotas of years gone by, and with that resolve a determined and energetic committee is launching the drive this year, under the capable leadership of: Mrs. A. J. Freiman. Honorary Chairman; Alex Betcherman, Chairman; Samuel Berger, K.C., Vice-Chairman; Jacie Horwitz, Secretary; Leon Petegorsky, Treasurer; Sam Lepofsky, Captain of Captains.

A special Youth Division is being organized by a committee consisting of Jack Kornblatt, Hy Soloway, Herman Roodman and Miss Eileen Rivers.

Palestinian Institutions

The question is frequently raised, why is it necessary to have "meshullachim" (collected) for the institutions of charity and the "yeshiboth" of Palestine, when the Zionist Organization is functioning? To answer briefly, the Zionist Organization is not, and does not claim to be, a relief society. Just as in our country our taxes do not provide for the Institutions for the Aged and the Orphan, and these seek their support among liberal contributors, so must similar institutions in the Holy Land be maintained through the voluntary gifts of well-wishers.